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ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA
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ISSUED: APRIL 1991

PENNSYLVANIA'S

LABOR FORCE

..... *A Monthly Statistical Analysis*

MARCH 1991 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pennsylvania's joblessness increased in March, as the statewide rate of unemployment rose to 7.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, from 6.7 percent in February.**
- **Nonfarm jobs increased by 20,400 in March to a total of 5,126,300. They were about 20,000 below their level of March 1990.**

In February 1991 . . .

- **Average weekly earnings of production workers in Pennsylvania manufacturing industries rose to $451.85, reflecting a 0.4 hour rise from January in the average workweek.**
- **The total number of initial claims fell seasonally from January but weeks claimed increased to their highest average weekly volume since June 1983.**
- **Unadjusted unemployment rates rose in fifty-nine of Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties.**
- **Of Pennsylvania's fifteen major labor market areas, eleven had higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates than in January .**

INSIDE

Current Labor Force Situation.....1
Nonagricultural Jobs.....2-4
Hours and Earnings.....5-6
Unemployment Compensation.....7
County Data.....8
Pennsylvania's Labor Markets.....9
Pennsylvania's Service Delivery Areas.....10
Special Interest Topic.....11-12

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force . . . A Monthly Statistical Analysis

is published monthly by the Bureau of Research and Statistics.
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Inquiries can also be directed to Labor Market Analysts located throughout Pennsylvania.

The following is a list of Analysts and the counties they serve.

Analyst	Phone Number	Counties Served
Edward Murray	(215)560-1977 Philadelphia	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties in PA; Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in NJ
Kenneth Shockley	(215)378-4314 Reading	Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks Counties in PA; Warren County, NJ
James Mowad	(717)963-3443 Scranton	Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga
Fred Schneider Larry Baugher	(717)771-1272 York	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton
Glenn Lynn	(717)327-3504 Williamsport	Centre, Lycoming, Potter, Juniata, Mifflin, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
William Findley Debra Nicholson	(814)533-2213 Johnstown	Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Clearfield, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Elk, Cameron, Greene
William Ceriani Roberta Wilson	(412)565-5350 Pittsburgh	Beaver, Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Armstrong, Lawrence
Carol Patterson	(814)871-4298 Erie	Erie, Mercer, McKean, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

Pennsylvania's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Moved Up 0.7 percentage point to 7.4 percent in March, highest since May 1986. The national rate rose to 6.8 percent in March from 6.5 percent in February. The increases came despite some sparks of hope that the recession may be bottoming out.

Data, made available through the Current Population Survey of households and released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, show March's unemployment in Pennsylvania up 34,000, to 433,000, its highest in nearly five years. This pushed the statewide jobless rate up sharply from 6.7 percent in February. It was 5.2 percent in March 1990.

Employment, seasonally adjusted, was down by 137,000, to 5,389,000 in March. This loss was considerably more than the increase in the unemployed, reflecting a 103,000 shrinkage in the state's labor force. Compared to March 1990, employment showed a loss of 251,000.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

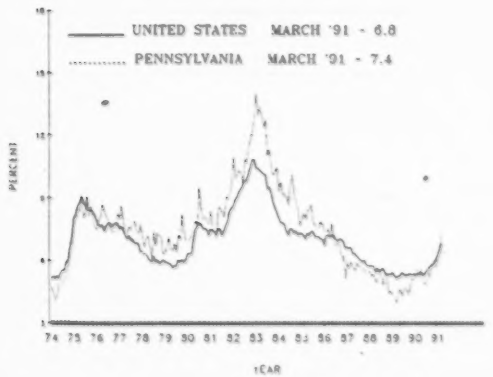

TABLE 1
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All persons in thousands)

RESIDENT DATA	MAR. 1991	FEB. 1991	MAR. 1990	NET CHANGE FROM FEB. 1991	NET CHANGE FROM MAR. 1990
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,822	5,925	5,949	-103	-127
Employment	5,389	5,526	5,640	-137	-251
Unemployment	433	399	309	34	124
Rate of Unemployment (%)	7.4	6.7	5.2	0.7	2.2
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,797	5,876	5,915	-79	-118
Employment	5,359	5,432	5,599	-73	-240
Unemployment	438	443	316	-5	122
Rate of Unemployment (%)	7.6	7.5	5.3	0.1	2.3

Resident employment not seasonally adjusted was down 73,000 from February, in sharp contrast to preliminary results from the survey of employers which showed a gain of about 21,000 jobs over the month, chiefly jobs in services, construction and retail trade. This discrepancy may have been caused by either a sizeable sampling error in the Current Population Survey results for March or by the "underground" economy shedding a large number of unreported jobs due to recessionary problems.

Among the eleven largest states for which seasonally adjusted data are available, Pennsylvania's 7.4 percent rate of unemployment in March ranked fifth, up from sixth in February. All of the eleven states recorded higher rates in March, ranging from a low of 5.6 percent in North Carolina to a high of 10.7 percent in Michigan.

PENNSYLVANIA'S JOBS

TABLE 2
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	MAR. 1991 AP/	FEB. 1991 P/	JAN. 1991	FEB. 1990	NET CHANGE TO FEB. 1991 FROM: JAN. 1991	FEB. 1990
NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	5,126.3	5,105.9	5,105.3	5,108.0	0.6	-2.1
---GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,207.1	1,203.0	1,219.8	1,249.3	-16.8	-46.3
MINING	25.9	25.9	26.2	26.6	-0.3	-0.7
CONSTRUCTION	202.0	197.8	202.5	203.2	-4.7	-5.4
MANUFACTURING	979.2	979.3	991.1	1,019.5	-11.8	-40.2
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	548.5	548.3	557.6	577.0	-9.3	-28.7
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS		27.6	28.8	30.7	-1.2	-3.1
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		18.3	18.7	20.4	-0.4	-2.1
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		43.4	43.8	45.7	-0.4	-2.3
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		86.4	87.1	89.2	-0.7	-2.8
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		84.7	86.0	88.7	-1.3	-4.0
INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY		103.7	105.0	108.1	-1.3	-4.4
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		76.9	78.0	80.9	-1.1	-4.0
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		48.2	50.5	53.0	-2.3	-4.8
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		39.0	39.3	39.7	-0.3	-0.7
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING		20.1	20.4	20.6	-0.3	-0.5
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	430.7	431.0	433.5	442.5	-2.5	-11.5
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		87.7	89.0	88.5	-1.3	-0.8
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-0.1
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		26.4	26.5	28.4	-0.1	-2.0
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		67.5	67.5	73.7	0.0	-6.2
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		39.2	39.5	40.4	-0.3	-1.2
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		84.6	85.2	85.3	-0.6	-0.7
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		62.4	62.3	61.8	0.1	0.6
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		11.3	11.3	10.9	0.0	0.4
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		42.1	42.3	42.8	-0.2	-0.7
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		8.7	8.8	9.5	-0.1	-0.8
---SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,918.5	3,901.2	3,885.0	3,857.6	16.2	43.6
TRANSPORTATION	162.5	162.1	162.5	156.6	-0.4	5.5
PUBLIC UTILITIES	105.0	104.9	104.8	104.0	0.1	0.9
COMMUNICATIONS		51.2	51.1	49.3	0.1	1.9
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		53.7	53.7	54.7	0.0	-1.0
WHOLESALE TRADE	274.8	274.3	275.8	274.5	-1.5	-0.2
RETAIL TRADE	891.3	887.6	900.1	887.0	-12.5	0.6
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		119.2	125.8	120.5	-6.6	-1.3
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	299.0	298.4	298.6	298.7	-0.2	-0.3
FINANCE		140.5	140.8	143.7	-0.3	-3.2
INSURANCE		117.6	117.7	115.2	-0.1	2.4
REAL ESTATE		40.3	40.1	39.8	0.2	0.5
SERVICES	1,466.6	1,457.0	1,444.8	1,421.5	12.2	35.5
BUSINESS SERVICES		206.8	209.9	206.4	-3.1	0.4
HEALTH SERVICES		481.9	481.9	463.2	0.0	18.7
HOSPITALS		259.3	259.5	249.4	-0.2	9.9
LEGAL SERVICES		42.7	43.0	41.1	-0.3	1.6
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES,		170.3	154.9	168.6	15.4	1.7
SOCIAL SERVICES		107.3	106.9	101.4	0.4	5.9
OTHER SERVICES		448.0	448.2	440.8	-0.2	7.2
GOVERNMENT	719.3	716.9	698.4	715.3	18.5	1.6
FEDERAL		137.0	136.0	140.8	1.0	-3.8
STATE		161.5	151.4	159.5	10.1	2.0
LOCAL		418.4	411.0	415.0	7.4	3.4
---PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	0.7	1.7	0.5	1.1	1.2	0.6

AP/ = Advance preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/ = Preliminary data.

Jobs Rose Seasonally in March, according to advanced preliminary data from the monthly survey of employer payrolls. Total nonagricultural wage and salary jobs in Pennsylvania increased by 20,400 from February to 5,126,300 in March, but remained about 20,000 under the year-ago level.

A 4,200 rise from February in construction jobs, which was smaller than normal, brought goods-producing jobs to 1,207,100. This total was 51,300 under that of March 1990, reflecting job losses in manufacturing, construction, and mining. Service-producing sector jobs were up 17,300 from February 1991 and 32,100 from March 1990 to 3,918,500 this March, chiefly on the strength of gains in service industries.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment in Pennsylvania Rose

by 600 from January to 5,105,900 in February. A near normal seasonal rise of 16,200 jobs in the service-producing sector and a 1,200 increase in the number of persons idled by labor-management disputes (but included in the job-count for statistical purposes) were almost all offset by a decrease of 16,800 jobs in the goods-producing sector. There were 2,100 fewer jobs this February than a year before.

The department's nonagricultural job count excludes farm workers, the self-employed, domestic workers and unpaid family workers.

The service-producing sector rise since January brought its job total to 3,901,200, which was 43,600 above February 1990's level.

Despite losing 12,500 jobs since January, the retail trade industry, with 887,600 jobs, was at its highest February level on record, up 600 from a year ago.

Among the finance, insurance and real estate industries, jobs fell by 200 since January 1991 and by 300 from February 1990 to 298,400. Over-the-year job gains of 2,400 in insurance and 500 in real estate were not enough to counter losses within the finance industry.

Payrolls within the service industry increased 12,200 since January to reach an all-time February record of 1,457,000, up by 35,500 from February 1990.

Jobs in government increased by 18,500 in February to 716,900, which was 1,600 more than in February 1990. The reopening of schools for the second term led to major over-the-month job gains in state and local government.

Jobs in goods-producing industries fell from January at twice the seasonal pace to 1,203,000, which was 46,300 below the level of February 1990.

Mining jobs fell by 300 from January 1991 and 700 from February 1990 to 25,900, reflecting problems in the coal industry.

Jobs within the construction industry fell by 4,700 since January and by 5,400 from a year ago to 197,800. This trend reflects on-going recession-related problems involving general building contractors and heavy, non-highway construction workers.

Manufacturing industries showed a job loss for the sixth consecutive month; their February total of 979,300 was the lowest level on record. The 11,800 drop from January, more than three times the seasonal norm, involved 9,300 durable and 2,500 nondurable goods jobs. Reflecting the recession's greater impact on durable-goods industries, hard goods jobs were down by 28,700 and soft goods jobs by 11,500 from February 1990.

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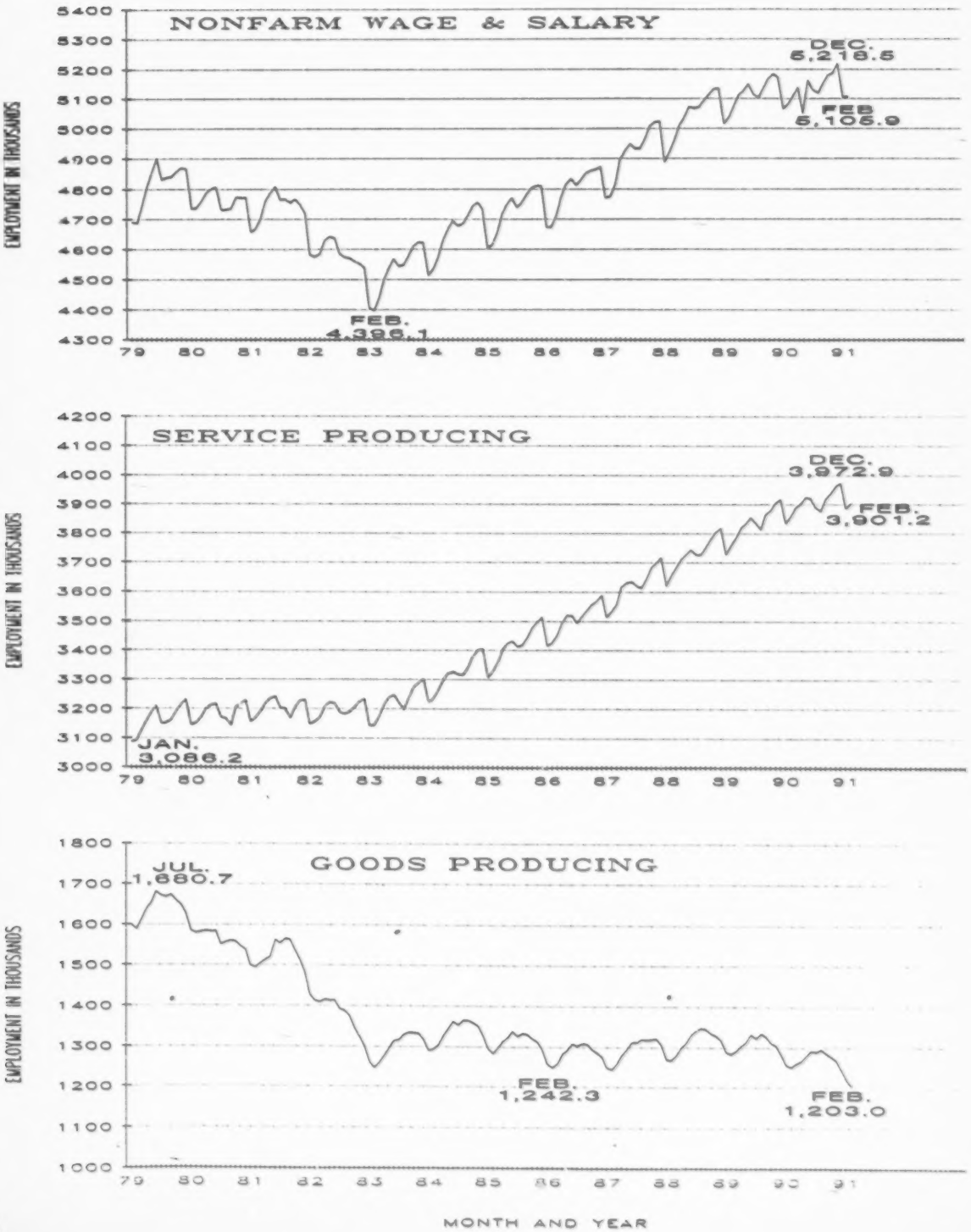
PENNSYLVANIA WAGE & SALARY JOBS
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA



HOURS AND EARNINGS

TABLE 3
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	FEB. 1991 P/	JAN. 1991	FEB. 1990	FEB. 1991 P/	JAN. 1991	FEB. 1990	FEB. 1991 P/	JAN. 1991	FEB. 1990
GOODS PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
COAL MINING	$734.60	$753.64	$731.84	44.2	45.4	44.3	$15.82	$16.60	$16.52
NONMETALLIC MINERALS	491.18	455.20	455.76	43.2	40.0	42.2	11.37	11.38	10.80
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	451.85	447.75	441.86	40.2	39.8	40.5	11.24	11.25	10.91
DURABLE GOODS	489.82	485.44	483.11	41.3	41.0	41.9	11.86	11.84	11.53
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	346.13	348.35	343.42	37.5	37.7	38.2	9.23	9.24	8.99
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	372.45	359.67	360.40	39.0	37.9	40.0	9.55	9.49	9.01
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	468.84	461.09	456.34	40.4	40.2	41.8	11.60	11.47	11.21
PRIMARY METALS	566.46	555.24	562.85	42.4	42.0	42.9	13.36	13.22	13.12
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	455.26	455.22	451.44	41.2	40.9	41.8	11.05	11.13	10.80
INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	513.36	508.82	523.31	41.5	41.3	43.5	12.37	12.32	12.03
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	470.22	462.73	451.19	42.4	41.8	41.7	11.09	11.07	10.82
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	580.73	598.03	563.64	41.9	42.9	42.0	13.86	13.94	13.42
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	476.42	464.06	457.73	41.5	40.6	41.2	11.48	11.43	11.11
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	440.30	434.34	425.30	40.1	39.2	39.6	10.98	11.08	10.74
NONDURABLE GOODS	404.95	399.19	388.55	38.9	38.2	38.7	10.41	10.45	10.04
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	437.10	434.58	424.63	39.7	39.4	39.5	11.01	11.03	10.75
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	285.18	270.82	275.37	42.5	40.3	41.1	6.71	6.72	6.70
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	305.49	286.77	301.58	37.3	35.1	37.9	8.19	8.17	7.96
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	238.73	228.96	224.45	34.8	32.8	33.6	6.86	6.92	6.68
PAPER PRODUCTS	499.38	491.63	491.48	42.5	42.2	42.7	11.75	11.65	11.51
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	446.58	443.08	439.67	38.3	38.0	38.5	11.66	11.66	11.42
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	558.45	564.81	539.18	41.8	41.9	41.7	13.36	13.48	12.93
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	757.25	728.28	604.28	46.4	44.9	40.5	16.32	16.22	14.92
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	405.00	414.41	414.39	40.5	41.4	41.9	10.00	10.01	9.89
LEATHER PRODUCTS	280.50	266.68	259.06	37.3	35.7	37.6	7.52	7.47	6.89
SERVICE PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
COMMUNICATIONS	575.02	598.18	550.83	38.8	40.2	39.8	14.82	14.88	13.84
ELECTRIC, GAS, & SANITARY	719.53	727.61	690.27	42.4	42.7	42.4	16.97	17.04	16.28

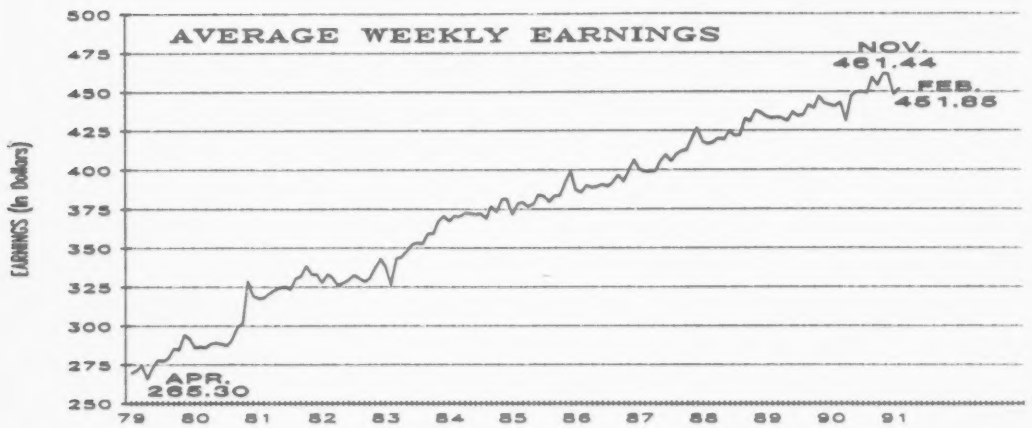
P/ = Preliminary Data

Production Workers' Average Workweek Climbed to 40.2 hours in February. This was 0.4 of an hour longer than in January. As a result, production workers earned an average of $451.85 during the middle week of February . . . up $4.10 from January despite a loss of one cent in average hourly earnings. The ability of the manufacturing workweek to hold the 40 hour level shows the uncharacteristic strength of manufacturing through the current recession. Typically, recession shrinks the workweek and forces many jobs out of existence. Recent average workweek lows have been briefly and narrowly less than 40 hours compared with historic recession lows of 37 hours or less.

In industries producing durable goods, workers averaged 41.3 hours during February's middle week . . . up 0.3 of an hour from January. Eight out of the ten durable goods industries had longer workweeks in February than in January. Transportation equipment and lumber and wood products had shorter February workweeks as both of these industries have been hard hit by the current recession.

In eight of the ten nondurable goods industries, workers had longer average workweeks during the middle week of February than January. Among nondurables industries, only in chemical and allied products and rubber and plastics products was the average workweek shorter in February. However, both of these industries had February workweeks well in excess of 40 hours. Because of characteristics endemic to some of the nondurable goods industries, the 40-hour workweek is not as indicative of overall economic health as it is in durable goods and manufacturing as a whole.

PENNSYLVANIA HOURS & EARNINGS
FOR MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS



UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

TABLE 4
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not seasonally adjusted)

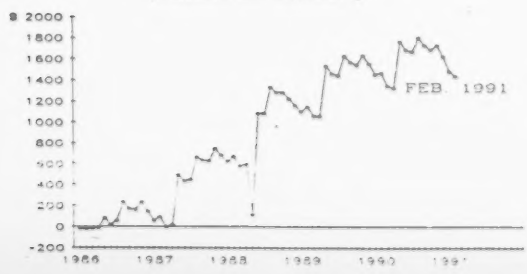
	FEB. 1991	JAN. 1991	FEB. 1990	NET CHANGE FROM JAN. 91	NET CHANGE FROM FEB. 90
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	117,972	190,206	90,546	-72,234	27,426
Weeks Claimed	977,334	1,095,937	716,449	-118,603	260,885
...Average Weekly Volume	244,334	238,247	179,112	6,087	65,221
Insured Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.9%	3.7%	0.1	1.3
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	64,252	94,478	46,104	-30,226	18,148
Final Payments	9,639	13,163	7,683	-3,524	1,956
Weeks Paid	890,791	945,028	650,317	-54,237	240,474
Net Benefit Amount	$164,290,509	$170,964,559	$114,035,445	-$6,674,050	$50,255,064
Average Check	$184.43	$180.91	$175.35	$3.52	$9.08

February's Average Weekly Volume of Weeks Claimed Reached its Highest Level in eight years. Weeks claimed represent requests for benefits for a week of unemployment or partial unemployment. The total number of such claims in February dropped by 118,603 or 11 percent from January. However, since there were three fewer working days in February than in January, the weekly average rose by 6,087, or three percent, to 244,334 in February, highest since June 1983's 258,855. This raised the insured unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage point from January to 5.0 percent, the highest February rate since February 1985's 5.2 percent. Initial claims fell seasonally by 72,234 or 38 percent from January to 117,972 in February. Compared to a year ago, initial claims in February were up by 27,426 or 30 percent. This was the twenty-second consecutive month of over-the-year increases.

The average check amount rose by a considerable $3.52 over January to $184.43 in February. Traditionally, the average check for February is among the largest during the year. Despite this increase, a 6 percent decline in weeks paid reduced the net benefit amount from $171 million in January to $164 million in February. During February, income to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund fell short of disbursements by $44 million. As a result, cash reserves in the fund at the end of the month slid to $1.4 billion, the lowest level since April 1990.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACTIVITY

BALANCES*
1986 - 1991
(Dollars in Millions)



FEBRUARY 1991		
Income	$	120,506,384
Disbursements	$	164,286,712
Cash Reserves	$	1,436,154,185

UNEMPLOYMENT ... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

Pennsylvania's Labor Force Contracted

as the recession tightened its grip on the state's economy. The statewide labor force was 7,000 lower this February than in February 1990. As times get more difficult, unemployed workers become discouraged and leave the labor force. Others become convinced that there is no job awaiting them and don't enter the labor force. As a result, the labor forces in most counties in Pennsylvania have either shrunk or remained the same over the last year.

Following the lead of the state as a whole, fifty-nine of Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties had higher unadjusted unemployment rates in February than in January. Two rates were unchanged while six were lower. Snyder County recorded the largest decrease, down by 2.2 percentage points. This drop in unemployment was precipitated by recalls in a broad spectrum of industries as well as people finding new jobs. A contraction of the labor force was also instrumental. The next largest decrease occurred in Warren County where a decline of 1.6 percentage points resulted from the combination of a labor force contraction and recalls in wholesale and retail trades. The largest over-the-month rate increase, 1.9 percentage points, occurred in Cameron County where problems in the manufacturing sector caused unemployment to escalate.

Three of the four suburban Philadelphia counties continue to rank among the four with the lowest unemployment rates in the state. However, permanent layoffs in the steel industry coupled with temporary layoffs in other manufacturing lines increased the Bucks County rate to 7.5 percent, from 5.8 percent in January.

TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, preliminary)
FEBRUARY 1991

COUNTY	RANK	RATE	VOLUME
Chester	1	4.8	9,600
Cumberland	2	5.1	5,500
Delaware	3	5.2	15,100
Montgomery	4	5.3	20,600
Dauphin	5	5.5	7,400
Lancaster	6	5.6	12,400
Allegheny	7	5.9	38,600
Adams	8	6.0	2,400
Montour	9	6.4	500
York	9	6.4	11,700
Warren	11	6.5	1,400
Centre	12	6.7	4,600
Lebanon	13	6.8	4,300
Lehigh	13	6.8	10,200
Sullivan	15	6.9	200
Franklin	16	7.3	4,400
Bradford	17	7.4	2,300
Bucks	18	7.5	22,800
Erie	19	7.7	10,300
Mercer	19	7.7	4,000
Northampton	19	7.7	9,200
Berks	22	7.8	13,600
Philadelphia	22	7.8	56,900
Butler	24	8.0	6,100
Washington	25	8.1	7,700
Lawrence	26	8.2	3,900
Lackawanna	27	8.4	9,200
McKean	27	8.4	1,700
Westmoreland	27	8.4	14,900
Union	30	8.6	1,400
Venango	30	8.6	2,100
Perry	32	9.2	2,000
Luzerne	33	9.3	14,900
Elk	34	9.4	1,600
Cameron	35	9.7	300
Wyoming	35	9.7	1,300
Lycoming	37	9.9	5,900
Crawford	38	10.1	4,000
Pike	39	10.2	1,300
Blair	40	10.3	6,300
Cambria	40	10.3	6,700
Monroe	42	10.4	5,200
Tioga	42	10.4	2,000
Snyder	44	10.5	2,000
Columbia	45	10.6	3,400
Potter	46	10.7	900
Carbon	47	10.9	2,900
Fayette	48	11.0	6,600
Jefferson	48	11.0	2,200
Schuylkill	48	11.0	7,900
Susquehanna	48	11.0	1,900
Northumberland	52	11.2	5,400
Somerset	52	11.2	3,700
Beaver	54	11.4	6,900
Armstrong	55	12.0	3,500
Greene	56	12.1	1,600
Indiana	56	12.1	4,300
Mifflin	58	12.2	2,700
Wayne	59	12.6	2,500
Clarion	60	13.3	2,400
Clearfield	60	13.3	4,700
Bedford	62	13.7	3,000
Fulton	63	14.0	900
Juniata	63	14.0	1,400
Huntingdon	65	14.6	2,900
Clinton	66	15.9	2,500
Forest	67	19.1	300

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 6
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE
BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA
(Seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

AREA	FEBRUARY 1991 * UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	FEBRUARY 1991 * UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	JANUARY 1991 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	JANUARY 1991 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	FEBRUARY 1990 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	FEBRUARY 1990 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%
UNITED STATES	8,158.0	6.5	7,715.0	6.2	6,579.0	5.3
PENNSYLVANIA	399.0	6.7	371.0	6.3	331.0	5.6
LABOR MARKET AREA						
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	22.4	6.6	21.7	6.5	20.3	6.0
ALTOONA MSA	5.4	8.7	5.0	8.1	4.2	6.8
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA	6.0	9.8	5.3	8.9	5.2	8.5
ERIE MSA	8.8	6.5	8.2	6.1	8.4	6.2
HARRISBURG-LEB-CARLISLE MSA	17.3	5.2	17.2	5.2	15.4	4.6
JOHNSTOWN MSA	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.8	7.9	8.0
LANCASTER MSA	12.1	5.3	13.3	5.9	10.5	4.5
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	147.5	6.0	137.5	5.6	111.1	4.5
PITTSBURGH PMSA	56.3	5.6	52.7	5.3	50.2	5.0
READING MSA	12.6	7.2	11.5	6.6	10.1	5.6
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	29.6	8.1	28.2	7.7	28.4	7.6
SHARON MSA	3.6	6.8	3.3	6.3	2.8	5.4
STATE COLLEGE MSA	4.1	6.0	3.9	6.0	3.8	5.6
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	4.9	8.2	4.6	7.7	4.4	7.2
YORK MSA	13.2	5.8	12.9	5.8	11.1	4.9

*Preliminary data

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Rose in 11 major labor market areas in February as Pennsylvania's involvement with the current recession became more deeply entrenched. Rates in three other areas were unchanged and only the Lancaster MSA had a lower rate, down 0.6 of a percentage point. The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up 0.4 of a percentage point to 6.7 percent.

The southcentral region of the state is weathering the recession better than the state as a whole. The Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA, somewhat recession-proof as are most state capitals, had the lowest seasonally adjusted February unemployment rate of all fifteen major areas in the state, 5.2 percent. The Lancaster MSA, which generally has one of the lowest (if not the lowest) unemployment rates of all the major Pennsylvania labor market areas, recovered from a rocky January to record the second lowest February rate, 5.3 percent, reflecting an expansion in service-producing jobs. The York MSA, the other southcentral major labor market area, had the fourth lowest rate, 5.8 percent.

The opposite has been happening in the southwestern quadrant of the state. Although the Pittsburgh PMSA had the third lowest seasonally adjusted February rate at 5.6 percent, the other three major labor market areas in this sector had the three highest rates in the state. The Beaver County PMSA and Johnstown MSA, with February rates of 9.8 and 9.0 percent, respectively, have never fully recovered from the last recession. The Altoona MSA, unable to provide enough new jobs to absorb a rapidly expanding labor force, had the third highest rate, 8.0 percent.

All fifteen major labor market areas have higher unemployment rates this February than in February 1990. Increases ranged from 0.3 of a percentage point in the Erie MSA to 1.9 percentage points in the Altoona MSA.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

TABLE 7
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
FEBRUARY 1991 --- PRELIMINARY
(DATA NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, VOLUME IN THOUSANDS)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMP.	RATE(%)
01	Erie	135.1	124.7	10.3	7.7
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	105.9	95.7	10.3	9.7
03	City of Pittsburgh	171.9	162.3	9.6	5.6
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	486.2	457.1	29.1	6.0
05	Beaver	60.5	53.6	6.9	11.4
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	140.9	127.0	13.9	9.9
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	237.7	216.2	21.5	9.0
08	Greene, Washington	107.7	98.4	9.3	8.6
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	104.2	92.8	11.4	11.0
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	208.2	184.7	23.5	11.3
11	Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder, Union	233.3	210.8	22.5	9.6
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	84.3	76.6	7.7	9.2
14	Lackawanna	108.9	99.7	9.2	8.4
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	109.2	97.3	11.9	10.9
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	232.3	209.5	22.8	9.8
17	Philadelphia	729.4	672.4	56.9	7.8
18	Bucks	303.1	280.3	22.8	7.5
19	Montgomery	386.6	366.0	20.6	5.3
20	Delaware	288.6	273.4	15.1	5.2
21	Chester	198.9	189.3	9.6	4.8
22	Lehigh, Northampton	269.3	249.9	19.4	7.2
23	Berks	173.7	160.1	13.6	7.8
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry	338.1	317.5	20.6	6.1
25	Lancaster	222.9	210.4	12.4	5.6
26	York	184.2	172.4	11.7	6.4
27	Adams, Franklin	99.6	92.8	6.7	6.8
28	Lawrence, Mercer	99.2	91.3	7.9	7.9
29	Montour, Northumberland	55.8	49.9	5.9	10.5
PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL		5876.0	5432.0	443.0	7.5

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC

ALEX COMPUTER JOB SEARCH NETWORK

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry recently announced that "ALEX," a new computer job-matching system, is available in 88 Job Centers throughout the state.

ALEX (Automated Labor Exchange), the latest in career information systems, is a computerized, self-service system updated daily that gives jobseekers direct access to the latest information on job openings with employers from the local area or around the nation. Opportunities range from entry level to highly technical and professional positions.

No appointment is necessary. ALEX is available from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday on a first-come-first-served basis. ALEX is user-friendly, and computer experience is not required to browse the job network. By visiting the nearest Job Center and simply reading a few instructions, jobseekers will be able to obtain information on the most current job listings. Jobseekers can "target" their job search in a specific geographical area by occupation, or ALEX can also assist the jobseeker to explore job openings in various occupations throughout the nation.

Novice jobseekers, especially high school seniors and college students, can benefit from using ALEX. Often unfamiliar with labor market trends, these jobseekers can readily investigate the opportunities offered by employers in the current labor market arena. This helps students adapt career goals to seek the necessary training to meet job requirements and their own salary expectations. They will receive firsthand knowledge of the job market to enable them to make objective career decisions based on fact instead of on assumptions that are often incorrect.

In an effort to continually improve and enhance ALEX aspects, Persian Gulf occupations may be reviewed through ALEX. Overseas opportunities, both skilled and unskilled, listed with the National Job Bank, have been included in ALEX as a separate menu item for those jobseekers interested exclusively in Persian Gulf employment. This information is also updated daily.

When someone expresses interest in a job found through the use of ALEX, the Job Center staff will discuss the qualifications and education necessary to complete the application process. If the person fulfills these requirements, he or she will then be referred to the employer for an interview.

ALEX and other Job Center services are free for both jobseekers and employers, with convenient service locations in virtually every community throughout Pennsylvania. Job Centers can also offer students a worthwhile learning experience.

Employers with jobs may use ALEX to publicize their listings nationwide with just one phone call to the nearest Job Center. With that phone call, businesses join the largest job network in the world with over seventeen hundred Job Centers nationwide working to fill their job vacancies with the most qualified candidates.

For more information on the ALEX computer system, or to arrange a visit to your local Job Center, call 1-800-622-JOBS. Businesses may phone the nearest Job Center with their job vacancy listings.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1987) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by average annual covered employment. Average annual covered employment is estimated until six months after year's end due to a lag in reporting covered employment.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employe contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Cash Reserves - Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits.